GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:817
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
BIO FUEL PLANTS ON WASTELAND
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wasteland in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to encourage bio-fuel plantation on such land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India 2005 published by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Remote Sensing Agency, the area of the wastelands in the country was 5,52,692.25 sq. kms.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) As per information received from Ministry of Rural Development, a National Mission on Bio-diesel is mooted for taking up 5 lakh hectares of Jatropha/Pongamia plantations on forest and non-forest lands.

During 2005-06, funds amounting to Rs.49.00 crores had been released for Jatropha nurseries in 9 states by Ministry of Rural Development, and a budgetary provision of Rs.50.00 crores has been made during 2006-07 to continue the nursery programme in the remaining states.